

**HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
WORK SESSION
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority conducted a special meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Chairperson David Elvig
 Commissioner Randy Backous
 Commissioner Colin McGlone
 Commissioner Bob Ramsey
 Commissioner Sara Strommen
 Commissioner Jason Tossey
 Commissioner Jeffrey Wise

Also Present: Deputy City Administrator/HRA Exec. Dir. Heidi A. Nelson
 City Administrator Kurtis Ulrich
 Development Manager Darren Lazan

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Elvig called the special meeting of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to order at 8:15 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

HRA BUSINESS

Case #1: Consider Project Signage for Ramp Construction

Executive Director Nelson reviewed the staff report, noting that the proposal is to put four signs up in The COR for information for the public.

Development Manager Darren Lazan pointed out the words can easily be changed on the sign.

Commissioner Tossey stated he was not in favor of putting up any signs.

Commissioner Ramsey suggested two signs may be more appropriate.

Commissioner McGlone noted it would be beneficial to have signs in place in time for Happy Days.

Commissioner Wise stated he would prefer to see at least two signs, noting it is an easier way to communicate to the residents.

Consensus was reached to erect two signs.

Case #2: Consider Letter of Intent - West 30 Retail (Portions may be closed to the public)

Development Manager Lazan reviewed the staff report. He noted after meeting with the first developer a year or so ago, they submitted a Letter of Intent.

City Attorney Goodrich noted that this meeting can move into closed session to discuss land sale pricing.

Motion by Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Chairperson Elvig, to move to closed session.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Elvig, Commissioners Ramsey, Backous, McGlone, Strommen, Tossey, and Wise. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

The Special HRA meeting moved into a closed session at 8:28 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Ramsey, seconded by Commissioner Wise, to open the closed meeting.

Motion carried. Voting Yes: Chairperson Elvig, Commissioners Ramsey, Wise, Backous, McGlone, Strommen, and Tossey. Voting No: None. Absent: None.

The closed session ended at 9:00 p.m.

Commissioner Ramsey stated he is in favor of the proposal, though due diligence must be conducted on the developer.

Development Manager Lazan noted he did visit their office as part of due diligence. He explained this proposal is a three year timeline, 3 acres a year for 4 years, which is dependent on the overpass. If the Board agrees, he will draw up a purchase agreement and present drafts to the Board prior to bringing it forward to the developer.

Direction was given to move forward with discussions toward a purchase agreement.

Discussion took place regarding the advantages and disadvantages of setting a precedent, and setting up guideposts.

Commissioner Wise pointed out this is not the first time a large piece of property has been developed. The first developer will get the best price, which is common knowledge among developers.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None.

COMMISSIONER INPUT

Executive Director Nelson noted the following items:

September 13 is the fiber optic groundbreaking event. Lunch will be at Ramsey City Hall, as the County Boards are also meeting at Ramsey City Hall.

The opening of the Veterans Clinic is Friday, November 11 (Veteran's Day), at 1:00 pm. The program will be held at The Fountains and tours of the new clinic will commence following the program.

Executive Director Nelson advised there is some discussion that a sub brand is subtly developing around the transit village. She suggested staff explore this issue and help determine whether it should be called this, or something to brand that area of the City.

Commissioner Strommen noted the brands should be nested and the nesting should make sense. She suggested the Council have a discussion regarding this in the near future.

Commissioner Ramsey suggested asking Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman for an update on the rest of the City, and that it be a regular column in the newsletter.

Executive Director Nelson noted the Falls Restaurant, formerly Wells Catering, has moved their operations to the new Falls Restaurant facility. The restaurant should be open by October.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Wise, seconded by Commissioner Ramsey, to close the special meeting of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Motion carried.

The special meeting of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi A. Nelson
HRA Executive Director

ATTEST:

Jo Ann M. Thieling
City Clerk

Drafted by Chris Moksnes
TimeSaver Off Site Secretarial, Inc.